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MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES

Dressing up for the photo booth at the Bradford West Gwillimbury First Night celebration on Dec. 31.

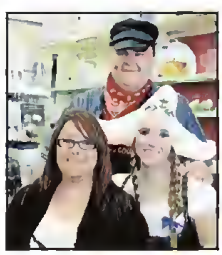
First Night welcomes 2017

STAFF

Icy roads and the threat of a winter storm didn't keep residents away from the annual Bradford West Gwillimbury Family First Night celebration on New Year's Eve. There were record crowds at the BWG Leisure Centre for the event – a family-friendly, alcohol-free celebration on Dec. 31.

Families came out to enjoy the free swimming, free skating, bouncy castles and live entertainment, marking the end of 2016 and the start of Canada's sesquicentennial year.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Year in review

The Times revisits some of the news from 2016.

15

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Police Briefs

Domestic assaults

Around 9:40 p.m. on Jan. 1, South Simcoe Police were called to an Innisfil home, where a woman reportedly had threatened her husband and her son, and assaulted her husband by slapping his face. She also damaged property, smashing plates in the kitchen. A 44-year-old Alcona woman was arrested and charged with domestic assault, weapons dangerous, mischief under, and three counts of uttering threats. She was held in custody for a bail hearing. The victims did not require medical attention.

Around 4:45 p.m. on Jan. 2, police were called to a Bradford home, where a woman reportedly assaulted her husband and stepson. Alcohol was a factor in the incident. The woman was charged with two counts of assault, and released with a court date in January and conditions requiring her to live elsewhere. The victims did not require medical attention.

On Dec. 31, officers were called to a Bradford home, where they learned a woman had been assaulted and threatened by her husband on Dec. 28 – the assault ending only when a relative entered the room. A 27-year-old Bradford man was arrested and charged with domestic assault and uttering threats. He will be required to live elsewhere and avoid the victim while awaiting a January court date.

New Year's Eve RIDE

South Simcoe Police conducted a spot check on Innisfil Beach Road on the afternoon of Dec. 31. Ninety-five drivers were stopped, none of whom had been drinking. In the evening, officers stopped 463 vehicles at various locations in BWG and Innisfil, administering 21 roadside screening tests. Three drivers received warn-range licence suspensions.

Stolen vehicle

South Simcoe Police were called to the Tanger Outlet Mall on Dec. 30 regarding the theft of a vehicle. The victim reported parking the vehicle – a 2003 Cadillac Escalade, four-door, black, Ontario licence plate BHRK 729 – near the H&M entrance to the mall around 9:30 a.m. When she returned around 3:30 p.m., the vehicle was gone. Security footage shows the vehicle was taken at 11:30 a.m. by two males driving a white Cadillac Escalade with tinted windows, aluminum running boards and a stainless-steel push bar with two fog lights mounted to the front. Anyone with information is asked to call investigating officer Mike Kayser at 705-436-2141, ext. 1412, or Crime Stoppers at 800-222-8477.

Cash found

Innisfil – On Dec. 23, a Good Samaritan found cash in the LCBO parking lot in Alcona. The money was handed to the manager of the store and, when unclaimed, turned over to South Simcoe Police. If you lost money and can identify the amount and some other identifying factors, call police North Division at 705-436-2141, ext. 1070.

Moving forward with employment land

Staff

Bradford West Gwillimbury council has recommended approval of an Official Plan amendment, zoning bylaw amendment and plan of subdivision for a 20-acre "triangle" of land at the southeast corner of the Highway 400 employment land.

The triangle was originally not part of the ministerial zoning orders (MZO) that govern most of the land on either side of the 400, from Line 5 to Line 8; the amendments bring the property in line with the designation and zoning of the adjacent land – redesignating from agricultural to MZO and environmental protection – and rezoning from agricultural to deferred.

The applications were submitted by Bond Head Properties Inc., and mark a step forward in the development of the land.

The plan of subdivision has been revised somewhat from the original Nov. 21 submission. The new plans show trails and buffering to protect an existing woodlot on the property, and a controversial road has been moved west so it now lies entirely on the proponent's land, within the strategic employment area.

The recommendation will come back to council for final approval on Jan. 10 – the next meeting date for Bradford West Gwillimbury.

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In a large pot, combine:

6 cups chicken stock

3 cups water

1 1/2 cups green lentils, cleaned

1 cup brown rice

1 28 Oz. can diced tomatoes

3 carrots, chopped

1 celery stalk, chopped

3 garlic cloves, minced

½ tsp. each dried basil, dried oregano

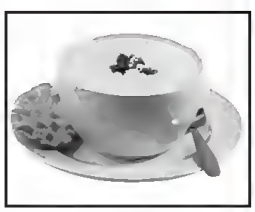
¼ tsp. dried thyme

1 Bay Leaf

Bring to a boil and simmer, covered, stirring occasionally, until the rice and lentils are tender. Stir in ½ cup minced parsley, salt and pepper to taste

1 Tbsp. cider vinegar[or Balsamic]

Discard Bay Leaf. Soup is thick-thin with additional hot stock or water, if desired.



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Monday - Friday 10:00 - 6:00 Saturday 10:00 - 5:00 Sunday Closed

Nifty1988

Crime Stoppers Month flag raising

Bradford West Gwillimbury mayor and council have proclaimed January as Crime Stoppers Month in the municipality. Join the mayor and council for a flag-raising ceremony and celebration of Crime Stoppers of Simcoe Dufferin Muskoka's 30th anniversary on Jan. 9 at 1 p.m. in front of the Bradford Courthouse, 57 Holland St. E.

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Bradford resident on front lines with LetsStopAIDS

NADIA BROPHY
Special to the Bradford Times

Bradford resident Thomas Gahor is now a youth engagement co-ordinator for Canada's largest youth HIV education and prevention organization, LetsStopAIDS.

LetsStopAIDS was founded by humanitarian Shamin Mohammed Jr. and a group of high-school students in 2004 to promote awareness of the global problem of HIV/AIDS in vulnerable youth. The organization has recruited international youth ambassadors around the world to speak out about the issue in their local communities, through outreach programs in schools and community centres.

There are more than 300 volunteers working across Canada to educate others about the pandemic through national and international programming. The youth ambassadors can participate in volunteer opportunities in countries impacted by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, helping with community resource projects that include agriculture and tree planting.

Gahor, 28, a former Holy Trinity Catholic High School student, graduated from York University with an honours degree in social work. He learned of LetsStopAIDS through his own research and became intrigued, interesting in joining an organization that helps people in impactful ways.

Since October 2016, Gahor has been working with youth in Dududu, South Africa, as youth co-ordinator at a drop-in centre. His work has been focused on providing young people with community health services, skill-building activities, sports activities and sex education.

Every Wednesday, a mobile clinic travels to the drop-in centre, delivering HIV/AIDS medication and health services for the community. Gahor and his team are involved in a garden project, which provides occupation for local youth, weeding and tilling the land, as well as a supply of fresh fruits and vegetables for the community.

Gahor also recruits guest speakers to come to the drop-in centre and provide educational presentations. On Dec. 13, he partnered with storyteller Dipo Mhlongo to conduct an interactive reading and writing workshop in Dududu. He plans to work with Community Mural Projects, which connects local artists with communities, to organize mural-painting workshops for youth.

"Living and working in Dududu, the epicentre of the HIV virus, has taught me a lot about the human condition and the importance of community," Gahor said. "One of the most beautiful things about community is that it allows its members to help each other in a way they couldn't as solitary individuals. When people work together and share responsibility, including those affected by HIV, it allows them to find self-confidence and inner healing."

Now in the new year, Gahor is hoping to recruit local residents in Dududu who can help with teaching, cooking, painting and musical activities for the youth.

To learn more about LetsStopAIDS and how to get involved, visit letstopaids.org/en.

SUBMITTED

Thomas Gabor working with youth in Dududu, South Africa.

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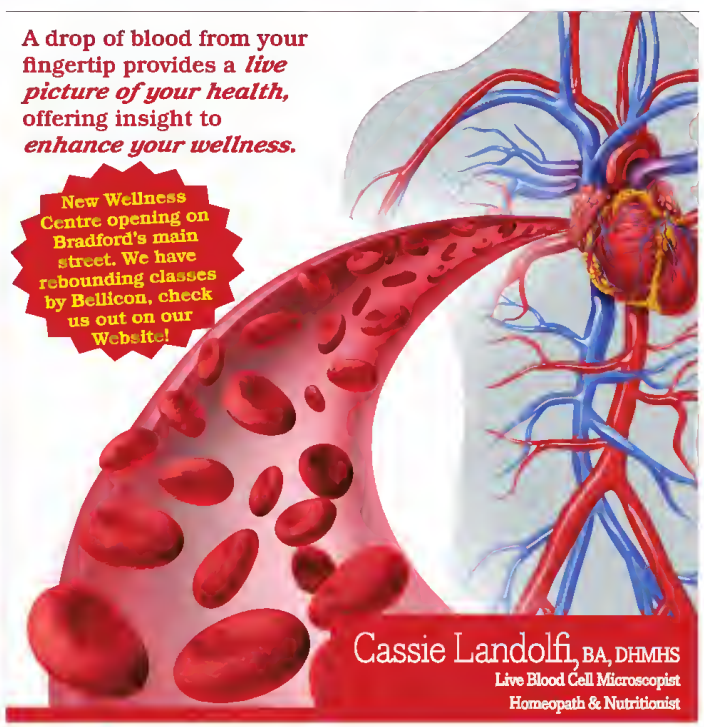

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Opinion

The Bradford Times

John Hammill, Regional Advertising Director
Nathan Taylor, Regional Editor
Miriam King, Editor: Ext. 512223
mking@postmedia.com

Point of View

Looking ahead

2016 is over and done with. Big sigh of relief.

It seemed every time we turned around, there was negative news: terror attacks on civilians, the escalating violence in war-torn Syria, wildfires, flooding. Then there was the U.S. electoral process: Watching the rise of incivility, proliferation of "false news" and resurgence of racism in our nearest neighbours was like watching the proverbial slow-motion train wreck – that sense of unavoidable and inevitable disaster.

Canada's economy may be shaky – especially with uncertainty over trade, under a President Trump – but there is room for hope in 2017.

In the last federal election, Canadians rejected xenophobia and consciously voted to support the country's ongoing experiment in multiculturalism and mutual respect. We are restoring support for science-based decision making. We have come to an understanding "reconciliation" is more than just saying you're sorry, and are taking the first steps in decades to address the issues facing indigenous peoples – issues of poor housing, bad water and an underfunded education system. The Inquiry on Murdered and Missing Aboriginal Women and Girls is turning a light on systemic problems in our policing and judicial systems.

We are growing up. On top of that, 2017 is our 150th birthday, and we are celebrating by sharing both our history and our natural environment, with more than a million free passes to our national parks already issued for the coming year.

Just wish we could be as positive about the situation south of the border. To an outsider, president-elect Donald Trump's comments on Russia and on U.S. intelligence sound something like sedition; his choices for cabinet positions like attorney general (Jeff Sessions) and secretary of state (Rex Tillerson, Exxon exec) feel like "payback."

But at the root of the problem are unresolved issues of racism, poverty and fear. It was only in the 1960s that Jim Crow laws and segregation were overturned; agitation for states' rights to often seem to be a backdoor approach to reintroducing discriminatory legislation – and the "open carry" and "stand your ground" gun laws have done nothing to reduce the level of violence or improve safety.

And until those underlying issues are addressed, it looks like 2017 will be more of the same.

Kumi Canada in the community

SUBMITTED

Kumi Canada Corporation has a tradition of community involvement, and especially support for the local Helping Hand Food Bank. In November, staff at the automotive parts manufacturer on Reagens Industrial Parkway raised nearly $420 for the food bank through a silent auction at the Bradford plant. Food bank president Anne Silvey, accompanied by food bank directors and by Bradford West Gwillimbury Mayor Rob Keffer and members of town council, accepted the donation on Nov. 29 and were offered a quick tour of the plant, which opened in 1998.

Letters to the Editor

Developers should pay

To the editor: I agree with the Dec. 15 editorial, "Paying the cost." When a developer applies to build, he knows it is a desirable community and advertises as such. Town planners have the facts regarding the additional costs of growth, including the operating cost increases. Even the school board knows how many more spaces are required for each home.

Most developers build and then leave town. They try to have council reduce development charges, saying they affect affordability. However, they have no qualms about raising prices as they proceed.

I feel development charges should be viewed as a membership fee to join our community. The additional costs should not be passed on to existing residents.

Doug Armstrong, Bradford

New Year's message

To the editor: Happy New Year, Canada, and happy sesquicentennial!

What an occasion: the 150th Anniversary of our Canadian family. This year we celebrate, and we stand at a threshold. We have a rare, once-in-a-generation opportunity to think about Canada, and look to the future. We have a chance to reflect, to reaffirm, to look ahead and say, "We love this country. We've come so far. Let's make it better."

And that is just what we'll do.

Canadians see this year as a chance to make a difference – to continue to build this country.

To all of you: Thank you for answering the call. Thank you for helping us seize this moment. Thank you for continuing the work of building Canada.

One hundred and 50 years ago, we began a great experiment. We called it Canada. The premise was that diverse peoples can live and work together in a spirit of respect, compromise and common cause.

One hundred years lager, in 1967, Canadians celebrated with a renewed outpouring of enthusiasm and nation building.

Today, we continue to benefit from the legacies of Confederation and of our centennial. And while not perfect, our Canadian experiment continues. This year, I believe our legacy will be to innovate, to improve upon our inheritance, to make this country even better.

We're so fortunate to live in Canada, but there's so much more work to do. Let's ensure this is a country of both excellence and equality of opportunity for all. Let's work towards achieving reconciliation with aboriginal peoples. Let's continue to celebrate diversity. It's a strength, one that has allowed us to build a society that is the envy of the world.

Besides our 150th, we're marking many milestones this year: the 375th anniversary of Montreal, the 125th anniversary of the Stanley Cup, and the 50th anniversary of the Order of Canada, which has the motto, "They desire a better country." That could be the unofficial motto of Canada this year. We all desire a better country.

This year, we have a rare chance to shape it, a historic chance. So, let's work together. Let's celebrate and let's keep building Canada.

David Johnston, governor general of Canada

POSTMEDIA

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Dancing to the music of The Cruisers at the Down East New Year's Eve party at the legion in Bradford on Dec. 31.

A Down East New Year's Eve

STAFF

The Bradford legion's banquet hall was packed with revellers on New Year's Eve, celebrating "Down East" style.

The evening included a roast beef dinner, dancing to music by The Cruisers and an appearance by the mummers – a Newfoundland tradition of "men dressed as women, and women as men," where guessing who's who was part of the fun.

There was also a "screeching-in," as several honourary Newfoundlanders celebrated the new year by downing a shot of Screech, Newfoundland's potent rum, and kissing a cod.

The Down East Girls are already planning their next dance at the legion – St. Patrick's Day, Newfie-style, on March 18 at 8 p.m. The dance will include music by Northern Lights (formerly Southern Comfort), a late-night buffet and prizes for those who wear green and gold. Tickets are $15 per person; call Alice at 905-775-6245 or Dianne at 705-424-9378.

On Jan. 1, the legion welcomed members and the community at large to the annual President's Levee – an afternoon of light refreshments and socializing to welcome the new year. "I'm looking forward to 2017 and Canada's 150th," said legion president Ruth Brooks as she welcomed visitors that included Bradford West Gwillimbury Mayor Rob Keffer.

The legion, 115 Back St. in Bradford, hosts a Friday-night social every Friday evening. On the first Friday of the month, it's karaoke night. Come out on Jan. 6 for Jay's Karaoke Party at 8 p.m. – no cover charge. All welcome. The third Friday of the month (Jan. 20) is Pub Night.

The legion is here for Canada's vets. There is support available for veterans and their spouses, whether at home or in a nursing home or care facility. You don't have to be a legion member to ask for assistance. Contact veteran services officer Ron Harmer at 705-775-4919.

For more information on events, programs and membership in the legion or the Ladies Auxiliary, or hall rentals, call Branch 521 at 905-775-5025.

Bradford West Gwillimbury Mayor Rob Keffer and "Down East Girl" Alice Organ at the Down East New Year's Eve party in Bradford on Dec. 31.

MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES

The Mummers arrive at the Down East New Year's Eve party at the legion in Bradford on Dec. 31.

New Year's Levee at the legion

MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES

The Bradford Legion Branch 521 held its annual New Year's Levee on Jan. 1 – an afternoon of free food and refreshments, as well as an opportunity to reflect on 2016 and welcome the new year. Pictured, from left, are Bradford legion president Ruth Brooks and legionnaires John Maynard and Bonnie Walker.

News Briefs

New Year's wishes

"I look forward to a healthy and prosperous year for all the residents of Bradford West Gwillimbury. I also look forward to seeing more housing geared to seniors, and more new jobs for all of the residents of BWG." – James Leduc, deputy mayor

"It has been just over two years since the last municipal election. As a council, we have already accomplished a lot, but there is still a lot ahead of us. One continued prime area of focus must be, and will be, sticking to our plan to resurface and/or reconstruct many of our urban streets and rural roads. This work is not only urgent; it is overdue ... I reflect back on a key part of my speech on inauguration evening in early December 2014. I shared then that I thought the word that will best describe this council is 'ACTION' – A for accountability, C for collaboration, T for transparency, I for integrity, O for optimism, and N for no BS. I think we have done very well on all of these six aspects, and I hope the residents and business owners throughout BWG feel the same. On a personal note, 2017 will be a year of focusing on seeing my daughters even more than in the past couple of years, and getting back to the gym at the BWG Leisure Centre even more than last year. A happy and a prosperous new year to all." – Gary Baynes, councillor

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Christmas Tree Collection

COUNTY OF SIMCOE For the Greater Good

Consult your **2017 Waste Management Calendar**, or the waste collection calendar tool at **simcoe.ca** to determine your Christmas tree collection weeks.

- Christmas trees must be at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on Monday of your collection week
- Collection will occur during the week; not necessarily on your garbage day

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- Maximum size 2 m; if longer, cut into smaller sections
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By: Roch Beaulieu C.F.P.

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Bradford west Gwillimbury

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Meetings & Announcements

Town Council

Members of the public are invited to attend all Council, Committee of the Whole and other Committee meetings. Meeting agendas and minutes are available at: bradfordwestgwillimbury.civicweb.net

For further information or to request a deputation, please contact the Clerk's Division at 905-775-5366.

PLEASE NOTE: The January Council meetings have been moved by one week to January 10 and 24, 2017.

Regular Meeting of Council & Committee of the Whole
- Tue. Jan. 10 @ 7:00 p.m. – BWG Library
425 Holland St. W – Zima Room

Special Meeting of Committee of the Whole on Seniors Housing
- Tue. Jan. 17 @ 6:30 p.m. – BWG Library
425 Holland St. W – Zima Room

Board/Committee

Heritage Committee
- Mon. Jan. 9 @ 6:30 p.m.
305 Barrie St., Unit 2 – Boardroom

Arts & Culture Advisory Committee
- Thu. Jan. 12 @ 6:30 p.m. – BWG Library
425 Holland St. W – Boardroom

Competitive Bids

To view a complete list of Town of BWG tenders, quotations and proposals or to register as a bidder with the Town, visit: www.biddingo.com/townofbwg

Employment Opportunities

Closing January 13, 2017:
- Leisure Events & Marketing Assistant (11-month contract)

Summer students: Closing January 16, 2017:
- 2017-PM01 – Parks Maintenance Staff
- 2017-DC01 – Day Camp Counsellors
- 2017-IF01 – Inclusion Facilitators
- 2017-EA01 – Leisure Events & Marketing Assistant

Closing January 27, 2017:
- 2017-WW01 – Wastewater Co-op (8 months)
- 2017-EC06 – Engineering Co-op (4-8 months)
- 2016-WC01 – Water Division Co-op (8 months)
- 2016-ML01 – MLEO Co-op (4 months)
- 2016-BC01 – Building Co-op (4 months)
- 2016-EM01 – Emergency Management Co-op (4 months)

Please visit www.townofbwg.com/careers or call 905-775-5366 for more information.

Town of BWG 2017 dog licences now on sale!!

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To order online or find more purchase locations, visit:
www.townofbwg.com/DogTags

Bradford west Gwillimbury

Buy before January 31 and save $5!

Mayor's New Year's Levee

Sunday, January 8, 2017
12:30-3:30pm
BWG Leisure Centre

Celebrate the New Year with the Mayor and Council and kick-off a year of celebrating Canada's 150th birthday!

Featuring:
Free Leisure Skating
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Events & Activities

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BWG CENTRE

Administration: **100 Dissette St, Units 7-8, Bradford**

News Briefs

Robbie Burns Night

Robbie Burns dinner

The Lefroy-Belle Ewart Legion Branch 547, 1017 Robinson St. in Belle Ewart, is holding its annual Robbie Burns Night on Jan. 21 starting at 6 p.m. – an evening that includes appetizers, a roast beef dinner, Innisfil Pipes and Drums, and Burns's Address to a Haggis. Come out for an evening celebrating Scotland's national poet and the author of Auld Lang Syne. Tickets are $25 each, available from Laurie Ferrie, 705-431-8519.

Robbie Burns dance

Trinity Anglican Church in Bradford hosts a Robbie Burns Day dance with The Cruisers, a 1950s-80s band, at the Bradford and District Community Centre on Jan. 21 starting at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $25 per person for a buffet, silent auction, door prizes and dancing to a live band. For tickets, contact Sheryl MacPhail at 905-775-3134.

Ham supper

Bradford United Church hosts a ham supper on Jan. 14 from 4:30 to 7 p.m., with continuous serving of ham and scalloped potatoes, vegetables, salads, rolls, dessert, tea, coffee or juice. Cost is $16 for adults, $8 for children. Tickets are available in advance by calling 905-775-7268, or at the door. Call in advance to arrange for take-out. The church is located at 66 Barrie St.

At the Danube Centre

Activities have resumed for the new year at the Danube Seniors Leisure Centre, 715 Simcoe Rd. in Bradford. Some clubs will start up next week, including canasta (Jan. 10), scrapbooking (Jan. 13) and the Varga Group of Artists (Jan. 14).

Coming up at the centre:

• **Movie afternoon** – Enjoy the movie Brooklyn, popcorn and refreshments for $3 on Jan. 14 at 1 p.m. All welcome.

• **Birthday luncheon** – Summer in January on Jan. 19 at 11:30 a.m. Members-only lunch will include all kinds of salads, cold meats, desserts and tea or coffee, for $8. Wear your best Hawaiian shirt, sun hat, sunglasses, shorts and sandals – but no Speedos. No reserved seating.

Danube Centre's New Year's levee

MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES

Seniors and members of the Danube Seniors Leisure Centre were invited to the President's Levee on Jan. 1 – a social afternoon of free refreshements and food at the centre on Simcoe Road. President Elaine Love shared her wish for the new year: "The road finished." Simcoe Road has been under construction since last summer, often forcing members of the centre to take long detours through the marsh to get to events. Bradford West Gwillimbury Mayor Rob Keffer is pictured with Love and centre vice-president Elke Pitkin at the levee.

Shadows of the past still visible today

HELEN YIELDING
Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury Historical Society

Finding forgotten things is always satisfying, but "finding out" about forgotten things adds another dimension of enjoyment, something the members of the Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury Historical Society experienced at their November mmeting.

They learned about two hamlets in Adjala-Tosorontio – one still in existence, the other almost invisible. Yet Colgan and Keenansville were both thriving settlements in the 1800s, witb homes, businesses, schools and churches to serve their populations.

Janine Harris-Wheatley explained the rise and fall of the communities, settled by Irish Catholic immigrants in the 1830s. Using maps and archives, she learned Colgan had a log church in 1832 – replaced by a frame building in 1851, with a brick priest's house next door. By 1888, the community had constructed a massive brick church seating 700 people, along with a school. Both the church and house are still in active use today, and other signs of the past quietly exist. The general store is now a home, while a residence for teaching nuns at the former school has been repurposed as a credit union. Several lovely, old homes remain that attest to a busier past.

Keenansville is another mainly Irish settlement. Named for Robert Keenan, it was located on Bailey Creek, which provided the power for a sawmill, and a woollen mill that produced, at its peak, up to 200,000 pounds of wool. It also had a smithy, a hotel, stores, an undertaker and a lively newspaper, the Cardwell Sentinel. The township offices and a post office serving 45 families were located there, while a stagecoach connected tbe hamlet to other communities.

Yet today there is barely a trace.

It was economics that led to a decline. The forests were logged out, the wool industry was replaced by other fibres, and the railway went through Tottenham. Young people left, the newspaper moved to Tottenham, and activity slowed. By 1960, there was only one family left in Keenansville.

Colgan has fared better, and retains its charm.

Harris-Wheatley's presentation helped these once-bustling communities reach into the present.

The society held its Old-Fashioned Christmas Party and turkey dinner in Newton Robinson in December, and will meet again on Jan. 16.

Holiday greetings!

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BWG Mayor's Levee

Celebrate the new year with Bradford West Gwillimbury's mayor and council, and kick off a year-long celebration of Canada's 150th.

The second annual Mayor's New Year's Levee will take place on Jan. 8 at the BWG Leisure Centre, 471 West Park Ave. in Bradford, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. The event starts with free leisure skating from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., and includes musical entertainment by local artists, refreshments, and balloons. The formal presentation takes place at 2:30 p.m. Residents are invited to this free event.

"Last year's levee was a tremendous success, bringing together residents and visitors to celebrate the new year and the 25th anniversary of the amalgamation of BWG," said Mayor Rob Keffer. "We decided it was a tradition well worth continuing."

Fireworks light up the night

FROM PAGE 1

More than 900 people enjoyed the inflatable obstacle course, inflatable slide and bouncer, fish pond, magic acts, jugglers and unicyclists in the centre's gym over the course of the evening while, in the lobby, David Cavan Fraser – this year, accompanied by "Mr. Adam" – provided live music and an interactive show.

Kids lined up for the fantasy airbrush tattoos and dressed up for the popular photo booth – all free, thanks to the town and its sponsors.

The indoor activities wrapped up around 8:15 p.m., when everyone headed outside for more music, hot chocolate and a countdown, led by Mayor Rob Keffer, to the fireworks display that welcomed 2017.

PHOTOS BY MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES

New Year's Eve fireworks in Bradford.

Free skating at the Bradford West Gwillimbury Leisure Centre on Dec. 31.

Mom Ashleigh and twins Hope and Nathan, 9, enjoy the free hot chocolate and activities at the Bradford West Gwillimbury Family First Night celebration on Dec. 31.

"Mr. Adam" took the place of Special K, joining David Cavan Fraser in concert at the Family First Night celebration in Bradford on Dec. 31.

Bouncy castles indoors at the Bradford West Gwillimbury Leisure Centre for Family First Night celebration on Dec. 31.

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

In looking forward to 2017, I hope the celebrations of Canada's 150th birthday will bring a renewed appreciation of what a great country – and indeed a town – we live in. I am excited to see the fruits of the seniors housing program realized, with the start of construction of various housing projects.

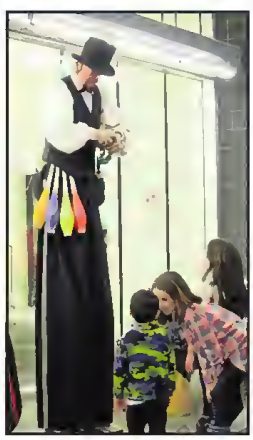
I hope the people of Bradford West Gwillimbury will make themselves knowledgeable of the new as well as long-established parks, trails and recreation facilities the town offers.

And, hopefully, the Highway 400-404 Link will be recognized as essential by the provincial government, and a timetable for its construction will be announced.

I wish everyone a prosperous 2017, and that you and your family will enjoy good health and happiness throughout the year.

– Mayor Rob Keffer

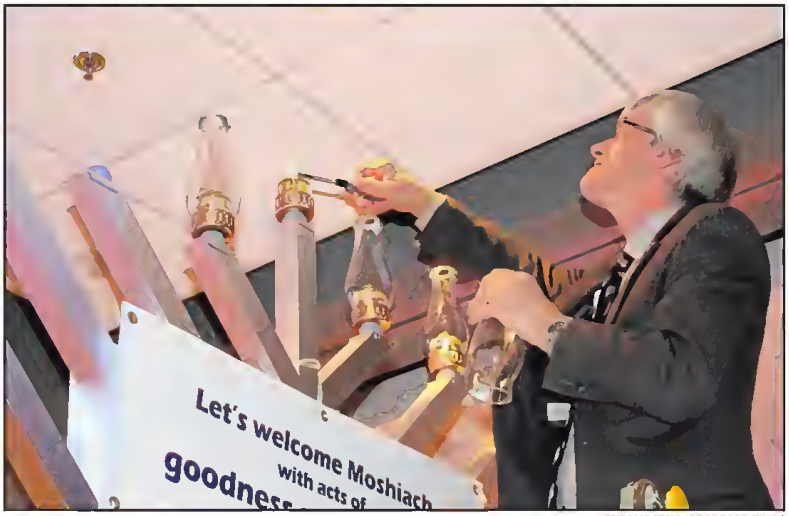
Magical entertainment at the Bradford West Gwillimbury Leisure Centre during Family First Night celebration on Dec. 31.



Juggling, stilt walking and balloon art – part of the fun at Family First Night in Bradford on Dec. 31.

David Cavan Fraser provided live music at the Bradford West Gwillimbury Family First Night celebration on Dec. 31.

There were free activities, swimming and skating at the Bradford West Gwillimbury Leisure Centre for Family First Night celebration on Dec. 31.



MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES

Bradford West Gwillimbury Mayor Rob Keffer lights the shamash candle of the menorah in Bradford on Dec. 28.

Chanukah isn't complete without food, including latkes and an array of jelly doughnuts.

Rabbi Yosef Y. Nakkar presents York-Simcoe MP Peter Van Loan with a menorah.

Five candles lit on the menorah on the fifth night of Chanukah.

Chanukah party in Bradford

MIRIAM KING
Bradford Times

For a second year, Rabbi Yosef Y. Nakkar presided over Bradford's menorah-lighting ceremony and the Chanukah party that followed at the Bradford Public Library – and, once again, Bradford West Gwillimbury Mayor Rob Keffer helped light the shamash, the central candle on the oversized menorah.

This year, the event was held indoors in the Zima Room, a nod to the wintry weather outside.

Nakkar explained the significance of the menorah, a replica of the branched candelabra that once illuminated the Temple in Jerusalem but was extinguished when Greek forces overran Judea.

It was Judah Maccabee and his small army who overcame the Greeks and restored Jewish worship at the Temple, but when they restored the building, they found only enough sanctified oil to fill the menorah and burn for one night.

"We thank God almighty for the miracles he has done for us in the past, and that he continues to do for us," said the rabbi, explaining the oil burned for eight days, until a new supply could be prepared. Chanukah celebrates those eight days, with an additional candle being lit each evening during the eight-day festival.

"A little bit of light drives away darkness," said Nakkar. "We cannot stay at the same level. We have to go higher, one step at a time."

York-Simcoe MP Peter Van Loan called Canada "a society in which we welcome people embracing their faith, celebrating their faith," and he shared his own memories of growing up in multicultural East York, where many of his neighbours were Jewish, and Holocaust survivors. His family was Estonian, and some of his own relatives had suffered in Soviet concentration camps.

"Together we lived that experience," Van Loan said, thanking the organizers for arranging the event at a time of rising intolerance and backlash against the Jewish state.

"We are a diverse community," said Keffer, noting the Chanukah celebration was memorable not only for the menorah lighting. "It was the upbeat and festive music, it was the food – really great food – it was family," he said. "It is great to see so many young people here ... It is upbeat, optimistic."

There were crafts and games for the children, potato pancakes and apple sauce, traditional jelly doughnuts and treats, while rock versions of Here Comes Chanukah and The Dreidel Song played in the background.

Nakkar spoke the blessing, and the evening included a brief film clip of the late Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, leader of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement, who explained the reasons for giving thanks at Chanukah and the symbolic role of the candles to "make the world brighter than yesterday."

For more information, see jewishbradford.ca.

News Briefs

Transitioning to high school

Bradford District High School hosts an information session for Grade 8 students and their parents, to help with the transition to high school. The information night will take place on Jan. 19 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Nantyr Shores Secondary School in Innisfil is hosting its Grade 8 info night on Jan. 18 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The evenings will provide an overview of high-school life and the opportunities available, including co-op, dual credit, e-learning, Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, and specialist high-skills majors in the Simcoe County District School Board. See scdsb.on.ca/schools/pages/highschool.aspx for information.

Time to STOP smoking

Planning to quit smoking in the new year, but don't know how to start? Contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to find local services to support your decision, including STOP smoking workshops. There are a number of STOP workshops planned across Simcoe County and Muskoka during January. The three-hour workshops share information, tips for success and free nicotine patches to help overcome cravings. Contact Health Connection at 877-721-7520 or 705-721-7520 during regular business hours for more information or to sign up, or visit simcoemuskokahealth.org. There is also information available on free phone apps, contests and prizes to help you quit on your own.

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Swedish team brings international flavour

MIRIAM KING
Bradford Times

It's been 25 years since Bosse Tallbo first brought a young Swedish minor hockey team to tour Canada.

It was a unique opportunity for the young players, to travel, play hockey against teams in Canada and the U.S., and to see the sights, including Niagara Falls.

On Dec. 29, the latest incarnation of the Vänersborg Hockey Club midget team arrived in Bradford for an exhibition game against the minor midget A Bulldogs – and, once again, Tallbo, now retired, accompanied the 22 players and their coaches.

There are strong similarities between Canada and Sweden, be noted – and between Vänersborg and Bradford. Vänersborg, located on the west coast of Sweden, has a population of about 38,000 and is about an hour's drive from the country's second-largest metropolitan centre. It also has a strong tradition of hockey and passion for the game.

"It's a great adventure for them to come here," Tallbo said of the team. "We love to be here. It's a great time for the kids."

The team arrived on Boxing Day and played in Toronto on Tuesday before heading to Bradford.

The national anthems of Sweden and Canada played at the Bradford West Gwillimbury Leisure Centre as Mayor Rob Keffer welcomed the Vänersborg Hockey Club and dropped the puck. What followed were three periods of strong end-to-end action, as the Swedes skated to an 8-4 win.

Vänersborg returned to Toronto for another game on Friday, then travelled to Fort Erie for a game on Jan. 2 – finishing in Niagara Falls Jan. 4 against the Niagara Falls Flyers before heading home.

MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES

Bradford West Gwillimbury Mayor Rob Keffer (in jersey), joined by Coun. Gary Baynes, drops the puck as the team captains of Sweden's Vänersborg Hockey Club and Bradford's minor midget A Bulldogs face off in Bradford on Dec. 29.

BRADFORDTIMES.CA

Free curling clinics

It's cold, snowy and the start of a new year. What better time to learn "the roaring game?"

The Bradford Curling Club is again hosting a series of free curling clinics – the perfect opportunity for beginners to learn the basics of curling, and for former curlers to brush up on their skills. Instruction and equipment will be provided for all ages – from tots to seniors.

Free curling clinics will be held at the club, 125 Simcoe Rd. (beside the Bradford Community Centre), on Jan. 8 and 15 from 4 to 6 p.m. each day. Register by emailing enquiries@bradfordcurlingclub.ca.

Coming up: The Bradford Curling Club hosts a Yuk Yuk's Comedy Night Feb. 4 at the Portuguese Cultural Centre of Bradford, 767 Simcoe Rd. Doors open at 7 p.m., Comedy show starts at 8:30 p.m., followed by dancing to a DJ, and food catered by Poleiro BBQ. Tickets cost $40 per person and are available at Water Depot, Decorator's Edge and Bradford Skin Clinic, or at the Bradford Curling Club from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on weekdays only.

News Brief

Free exercise course for teens

eLifestyle Health Advocates, a not-for-profit focusing on fitness for teens (ages 12 to 19), has received a ParticipAction grant that will allow the organization to offer a free teen exercise program.

The new teen exercise course will offer full-body resistance and bodyweight training, introducing the principles of exercise and active living.

The results will include better balance, co-ordination, mobility, healthy weight management, and increased activity levels – promoting a healthy body image while teaching teens how to exercise safely and effectively in a gym environment.

The course will be offered Jan. 10, 12, 17 and 19 at 3:45 p.m. (after school) in the Zima Room at the BWG Public Library, 425 Holland St. W.

To register, email leah@elifestyle.ca or call 416-841-2196.

Community Listings

SAT., JAN. 7

SIMCOE COUNTY BRANCH ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETS: 2 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 79 Ferris Lane in Barrie. AGM and Show & Share meeting. Bring what you have learned in 2016 to share. For info see simcoebogs.com.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FOR KIDS: At the Tiffin Centre for Conservation, 8195 - Line 8, Essa, 9 a.m. to noon. Mini workshop on Bird identification, followed by a Bird Count Hike through Tiffin. See www.nvca.on.ca to register; $5 in advance, $6 at the door, free for kids under 3. Includes parking and hot chocolate.

SUN., JAN. 8

BWG MAYOR'S LEVEE: At the BWG Leisure Centre, 471 West Park Ave. 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Includes free leisure skating, musical entertainment by local artists, refreshments, balloons, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Formal presentation and launch of the Town's Canada 150 Celebrations start at 2:30 p.m. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS TREE BONFIRE: Dispose of your Christmas tree on Jan. 8, 5 to 8 p.m. at Innisfil Community Church, 1557 Innisfil Beach Road. The Church, Innisfil Fire & Rescue and Innisfil Rotary Club partner on this great community event. Trees can be dropped off at the church until Jan. 7. Hot chocolate will be available. For info, call 705-436-1611.

FREE CURLING CLINIC: The Bradford Curling Club hosts a free Curling Clinic, from 4-6 p.m. - instruction and equipment provided, for all ages. At the Club, 125 Simcoe Rd. (beside the old Arena). Email enquiries@bradfordcurlingclub.ca for details and to RSVP.

TUES., JAN. 10

YORK SIMCOE NATURALISTS MEET: Guest speaker Karen Stephenson, Author, will talk about Conifers as Winter Food. 7:30 p.m. at the River Drive Park Community Centre, 20 Oak Ave. off Queensville SR, north of Holland Landing. See www.ysnaturalists.com for more, and lug a mug.

THURS., JAN. 12

FRIDAY HARBOUR RESORT JOB FAIR: Bring your resume to the Innisfil Recreation Complex, Innisfil Beach Rd. and Yonge, on Jan. 12 from 6 to 9 p.m., or Jan. 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information, see fridayharbourresort.com.

SAT., JAN. 14

HAM DINNER: Bradford United Church, 66 Barrie St. in Bradford, hosts a Ham and Scalloped Potato Dinner, with Vegetables, Salad, Rolls, Dessert, Tea/Coffee/Juice from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Adults $16, Children $8. Tickets available in advance from 905-775-7268 or at the door. Call ahead for take-out.

SUN., JAN. 15

FREE CURLING CLINIC: The Bradford Curling Club, 125 Simcoe Rd. (beside the old Bradford Arena), hosts a free Curling Clinic, 4-6 p.m. Learn the roaring game - instruction and equipment provided. For all ages. RSVP to enquiries@bradfordcurlingclub.ca.

TUES., JAN. 17

ALZHEIMER SUPPORT GROUP MEETS: At CHATS Community & Home Assistance to Seniors, 448 Holland St. W. in the West Park Plaza. Family and Friends caring for a person with Alzheimer's Disease or related dementia meet to share information, coping strategies, challenges and successes, in a safe place. For info, call 705-722-1066.

MEETINGS

COMMUNICATION GROUP FOR PEOPLE WITH APHASIA: A weekly communication group for people with Aphasia is held every Friday, 9-11 a.m., at the Harmonize for Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic, in the Sadlon Health & Wellness Centre at Georgian College's Barrie Campus (Room M233). No cost. For information, contact Brittany MacKichan, Communicative Disorders Assistant, at bmackichan@marchofdimes.ca or the H4SHL Clinic, 705-722-1561.

AL-ANON: Meets Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Holy Martyrs of Japan Church Basement, 167 Essa St. In Bradford. For more information, www.al-anon.alateen.org, wso@al-anon.org or call 1-888-4AL-ANON.

FRIENDS IN EUCHRE: Friends in Bradford (Euchre) is a new club for people interested in playing Euchre, in Bradford and surrounding areas. No membership fees/costs. The Club plays every 3rd Friday. Contact fib1@rogers.com for info.

WANT YOUR EVENT INCLUDED?
SEND US YOUR INFO
Listings are published as space allows each week.
E-mail listings to **mking@postmedia.com**.
Deadline for inclusion in Thursday's paper is Tuesday at 10 a.m. Listings of 50 words or less must be sent as a text document or in the body of an e-mail.

SPEAK FOR SUCCESS YORK-SIMCOE TOASTMASTERS: Meets every 2nd, 4th and 5th Tues. of the month, 7-9 p.m. at the BWG Leisure Centre, 471 West Park Ave., upstairs in the Multi-purpose room. All welcome. www.speakforsuccess.org

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP: Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Simcoe Manor in Beeton. For info, contact VON Simcoe County Program co-ordinator Lori Waring at 905-729-0700 or lori.waring@von.ca.

CHATS CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP: Meets the 1st and 3rd Thurs. of each month at CHATS in Bradford, 448 Holland St. W., at 10 a.m. For info, contact Marc Terrance, 1-866-677-9048 ext. 6226.

CHATS SENIORS WELLNESS PROGRAM: Meets Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Bradford Legion, 115 Back St. Includes health and wellness education, nutritious lunch, gentle exercise and fun activities. $8. For info, contact Laura, 905-715-1767.

Holiday concert

MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES

Teacher Carol Creal performs a duet with a student at Sir William Osler Public School in Bond Head on Dec. 21. The school held its annual Winter Holiday Concert, a celebration of the festive season that ranged from Chanukah lights to wishes for a "Holly Jolly Christmas." Bands played, children sang, and parents and grandparents applauded, filming the performances for posterity.

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Trinity Anglican Church
62 Church St., Bradford
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Sunday School, 10 am
905-775-2200
trinityanglicanchurchbradford.com

Bradford United Church
66 Barrie St.,
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Service -10 am
Sunday School Available
www.bradfordunited.com

St. John's Presbyterian
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Bradford Islamic Community Centre Offer
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- Please contact at bradfordislamiccentre@gmail.com for further details

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Greater Life Community Church
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(Sideroad 10 & Line 8)
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Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 pm
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www.greaterlifeonline.com

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info@stcatherineofalexandria.ca

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3224-10th Sdrd
(2 km north of Holland St. W)
9 am - Serviço Português
10:30 am - English Service
Sunday School/Pre-School Care
2:30 pm - Servicio Español
Mid-Week Youth Program
905-775-5700 www.bbcweb.ca

Iglesia Hispana de Bradford
758 Simcoe Rd. Bradford
Pastor: Juan Carlos Espino
Wed. 7:30 pm Bible Study
Sun: 1:00 pm Worship Service
Admin: 416-723-6670
www.iglesiahispanadebradford.com

Iglesia Bautista Castellana De Bradford
3224-10th Sdrd
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New Year's Eve at the Clube Portugues

MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES

Stunning black and white decor, with a splash of purple – gorgeous floral centrepieces – music by Banda Luso. The New Year's Eve gala at the Portuguese Cultural Centre of Bradford was an all-ages extravaganza, celebrating the end of 2016 and the arrival of 2017. The event was made extra-special by the membership: It was a member who created all of the outstanding floral displays, members who decorated the hall, who brought in the fabulous desserts for the late-night dessert table – and who packed the centre for a memorable evening of celebration.

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Miscellaneous

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Looking For/Wanted

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Seasonal/Temporary

INTERNATIONAL HERBS (BC) Ltd. growers of fresh herbs and vegetables located in Bradford is looking for **SEASONAL FARM LABOUR.** Duties will include (but are not limited to) the following: Seeding, Planting, Weeding, Harvesting, Processing & Packaging. Ability to operate farm machinery is an asset. No skills or prior exp. required. Hourly pay is $11.40. Work begins March 1st so apply now.
Email: work@internationalherbs.net

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LOCAL VEGETABLE FARM in Holland Landing requires labourers to maintain and harvest fresh vegetables for the 2017 growing season. Beginning approximately 15th of April to the end of November. Must be highly motivated, and be able to physically handle long hours and manual labour, endure various weather conditions, Tractor and forklift experience required. Full time, $11.40/hour please submit resume by email (only) to info@atvfarms.com. Only those chosen will be contacted for an interview.

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Education/ Employment

General Help Wanted

GOODYEAR Farm Limited
Local Vegetable Farm in York & Durham region requires farm labourers to manually cut fresh vegetables for the 2017 growing season beginning approx. 1st of June to end of October. Must be highly motivated and able to physically endure various weather conditions. Full time, $11.40/ hour. Please submit resume by fax to 905 478.8822. Only those chosen will be contacted for an interview.

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In Memoriams

REYNOLDS -
In memory of a loving husband, father and papa, Wallace (Duck) Reynolds, who passed away six years ago on January 2, 2011.

Our thoughts are always with you,
Our memories will never fade,
We treasure all the years we shared,
And all the love you gave,
We'll always love and miss you,
With every passing day,
The longing just to see you,
Will never go away.

Forever loved and remembered by your family - June, Cindy, Gary, Tara, Brandon and Tasha.

In Memoriams

Nothing is really lost as long as you remember it.
- Ally Condie,

2016: The year in review

STAFF

Looking back at 2016:

January

It was an exciting start to 2016 for students at Chris Hadfield Public School. Their new school on West Park Avenue opened in January, welcoming the 567 kids who had been boused temporarily in the old Bradford Public School building while waiting for construction to be completed.

There were other milestones. The Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury celebrated the 25th anniversary of amalgamation: It was in January 1991 that a decision of the province created a new municipality by combining West Gwillimbury Township and the Town of Bradford as a single entity. January also saw the official opening of FC Porto Dragon Force soccer academy in Bradford, recognition of the Bradford Soccer Club's Eagles U17 girls as U18 Canadian national champions, the official opening of the new St. Angela Merici Catholic School, and the arrival of BWG's first family of Syrian refugees – the family of Ali Al Shteiwe, wife Manjiye and their nine children.

February

In February, long-time seniors advocate and activist Sylvia Luxton – instrumental in establishing the Danube Seniors Leisure Centre and the BWG Good Neighbours Committee – moved to Newmarket with her husband, Trevor. Their departure underlined the lack of seniors' accommodation in the municipality. On March 1, town council established a Community Improvement Plan Area for Seniors Accommodation and set up financial incentives that led to submissions from developers for three new retirement residences in BWG.

Also in February, the burned-out shell of an apartment complex on John Street East was finally demolished – 10 months after the fire in 2015 that left nine people homeless.

March

The issue of Sunday hunting was raised in BWG council on March 15 – also raising a storm of protest from rural residents, who complained of illegal hunting activity, trespass and safety concerns, and called for a ban on hunting in the Simcoe County Forests, popular with hikers and cyclists. A vote on the issue was deferred.

St. Marie of the Incarnation School reopened on March 21 after undergoing extensive renovations. Its 530 students had found temporary classroom space at St. Jean de Brebeuf and St. Charles schools, while construction added eight new classrooms, created a kindergarten wing, new main offices and a chapel.

The province announced that Highway 400 will be widened, north of Highway 9, and that the South Canal Bridge, where the 400 crosses the south Holland Marsh Canal, will be replaced beginning in 2018. The North Canal Bridge will be replaced once the new Line 5 interchange, now under construction, and the South Canal Bridge are completed. There were concerns over planned lengthy closures of Canal Road.

In March, Joyce and Jim Muirhead celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary, March 16 – and Bob Evans, third generation of his family to practise law, received life member designation from the Ontario Bar Association on March 25, marking 50 years of law practice.

On March 24, an ice storm swept through southern Ontario, bringing down trees and power lines and resulting in power outages that left some customers in the dark for days. Clean-up continued into April.

April

BWG council voted to support an application to Health Canada for a medical marijuana Facility in a vacant industrial plant on Reagens Industrial Parkway, proposed by MedReleaf Corporation – a proposal that would create 250 full-time and 100 part-time jobs once the facility is at capacity. "When it comes to jobs, this is definitely a bonus to our municipality," noted Coun. Peter Dykie Jr. Council also awarded the contract for the construction of Henderson Community Park, April 19 – for soccer pitches, bleachers, picnic area, trails and parking, on the 97-acre property donated to the town by Phyllis Henderson.

The focus was on Small business, with the Bradford Board of Trade's Town and Country Living Show at the Bradford Community Centre, and presentation of the South Simcoe Business Excellence Awards. Among the honourees were BWG's That Wheel and Tire Shop, Dreamwinds Equine-Assisted Learning Centre, Kinnect Studio and Brittany Buck Hair and Beauty boutique.

To be continued

MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES

BWG council and Mayor Rob Keffer are joined by former mayor Frank Jonkman Sr. in cutting a cake, marking the 25th anniversary of amalgamation on Jan. 10.

MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES

New owners of Dutch Treats, Rob Bots and family, in Bradford on April 23.

MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES

Family Day fun at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area, north of Bradford, on Feb. 15.

MIRIAM KING/BRADFORD TIMES

An ice storm struck southern Ontario late in March, resulting in numerous trees and power lines down. Here, trees along 10 Sideroad in Bradford are shown on March 26.

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